

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON CIA ACTIVITIES

REF: COLOMBO 2112

1. AS REQUESTED BY POST, WE HAVE CHECKED ISSUES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AROUND MARCH 13. HIGHLIGHTS OF STORIES ABOUT ALLEGED FOREIGN ASSASSINATION PLOTS BY THE CIA RUN AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE ARTICLE APPEARING ON MARCH 13 FOCUSED ON THE DECISION OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE TO REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT A COPY OF THE WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED BY COLBY ON THE CIA DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES WITH QTE. A NUMBER OF PUBLISHED AND BROADCAST REPORTS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE QUOTED UNNAMED SOURCES AND FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN REFERRING TO PLOTS BY THE AGENCY AGAINST AS MANY AS SEVEN FOREIGN LEADERS. UNQTE. NO NAMES WERE GIVEN.

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THE TIMES WAS ALLUDING TO, AMONG OTHERS, AN ARTICLE

THAT HAD APPEARED IN ITS MARCH 5 EDITION WHICH HAD BEEN
ATTRIBUTED TO THE WASHINGTON STAR. IT REVEALED THAT,
ALONG WITH THE WRITTEN REPORT ABOUT DOMESTIC CIA
ACTIVITIES, CIA DIRECTOR COLBY GAVE THE PRESIDENT AN ORAL

BRIEFING. THIS BRIEFING DISCLOSED QTE. WHAT WERE
DESCRIBED AS SEVERAL ASSASSINATION PLANS, AND APPARENTLY
SOME ATTEMPTS, OVERSEAS AS FAR BACK AS EARLY NINETEEN-
SIXTIES. THE NAMES OF THE TARGETS, THE DATES OF THE
REPORTED ATTEMPTS AND THE DEGREE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT
COULD NOT BE LEARNED. IN CONFIRMING THE ORAL DISCUSSION
OF THE ASSASSINATION MATTER, THE OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED
THAT EITHER THE PLANS HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT OR THAT
THE ATTEMPTS HAD NOT SUCCEEDED. UNQTE.

3. SPECULATION ABOUT PLOTS AGAINST CASTRO, TRUJILLO,
AND DUVALIER APPEARED IN A TIMES ARTICLE QUOTING
TIME MAGAZINE ON MARCH 10. OTHER NAMES THAT HAVE
CROPPED UP IN THE PRESS INCLUDE LUMUMBA AND DIEM, BUT
NOT, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOLOMON BANDARANAIKE.
BESIDES WHICH, SINCE HE WAS SHOT IN 1959, HIS CASE DOES
NOT FIT INTO THE TIME PERIOD DISCUSSED BY THE OFFICIALS
IN THE MARCH 5 ARTICLE. INGERSOLL

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